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STAP-0029/82
26 October 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Intelligence Community Staff

VIA: Director, Office of Community Coordination

FROM: Executive Secretary
DCI Science and Technology Advisory Panel (STAP)

SUBJECT: STAP Membership (U)

1. In response to your query to [REDACTED], the following identifies the existing process by which individuals achieve membership on the DCI Science and Technology Advisory Panel. (U)

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2. The Director of Central Intelligence is the sole authority for appointing members to the STAP. The term of membership is nominally and informally set at three years; however, existing records and anecdotal information indicate there is no formal mechanism for reviewing a member's tenure at the end of this period. In fact, several members [REDACTED] have been members since the STAP was formed in 1976. Vacancies usually occur as a result of a member's voluntary resignation due to his having insufficient time to devote to panel activities. (C)

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3. Candidates for STAP membership can be identified or submitted to the Chairman by anyone. Ideally, the DCI should play an active role in identifying the expertise and technologies to be represented on his Advisory Panel. In actual practice, however, most of the Directors have adopted a passive or, at best, reactive posture with respect to filling membership vacancies on the Panel. It is usually the Chairman or an active current member who initially identifies an individual as a potential candidate to fill an existing or projected vacancy. The individual's name is submitted to the general membership and "executive session" discussions occur regarding the nominee's area of expertise, employment affiliation, potential conflicts of interest, scientific credentials, and potential contribution to the STAP. If the general membership endorses the individual, the STAP Executive Secretary coordinates the proposed membership with the CIA's Office of Security [REDACTED]. With interim approval by these offices, the STAP Chairman submits a memo to the DCI requesting authorization to approach the

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individual. With such DCI authorization, and a favorable response from the individual, appropriate paperwork (personal history statement, conflict of interest statement, etc.) and security background investigation procedures are initiated. When all is satisfactorily completed, the candidate is considered to be a potential member. A formal invitation to join the Panel may not be sent immediately. The individual may be placed in a "pool" of two or three approved and qualified potential members until a vacancy occurs or a continuing need for a person's unique talent is identified. At that time, the individual will receive a written invitation from the DCI to become a member. If the person's circumstances have changed in the interim so that he is no longer able to accept membership (new constraints on his time due to a change in position or employment, health reasons, etc.) the DCI may then invite another eligible individual from the candidate "pool". (U)

4. When an individual accepts an invitation to become a STAP member, appropriate documents are signed and exchanged specifying the terms, fees, and conditions of "employment" as a part-time, overt consultant to the DCI. The new member is also invited to undergo a polygraph examination but may refuse without prejudice to his membership on the panel. Currently, [redacted], [redacted] have been polygraphed. [redacted] have declined. The policy decision to grant final TS clearances and SCI access to STAP members without the polygraph was reaffirmed by John McMahon a year or so ago when he was Executive Director. His reasoning, inter alia, was that the STAP members already had or were likely to receive such access by virtue of their affiliation on other Intelligence or Defense-associated panels such as the NSA Advisory Board, Defense Science Board, etc. Additionally, other consultants and contractors with whom the Agency deals on an ad hoc basis usually do not have to be polygraphed. (C)

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5. The STAP currently has one vacancy in its total allotment of 10 membership positions. The STAP tries to maintain a broad range of disciplines, backgrounds, and expertise on the Panel. The Panel prides itself on its independence from "bureaucratic or political bias" and in its ability to serve as a link between government and the academic/industrial communities. As such, the STAP generally will not consider an individual for membership who has a current or recent (within five years) affiliation with a government agency. However, STAP membership is not lost if an individual accepts a government position while he is serving on the Panel.

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6. I am prepared to provide additional information on STAP procedures or discuss the points in this memo, if you so desire.

Very respectfully,
Robert D. Stiger Jr.
Robert D. Stiger Jr.
CDR USN

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STAP RESUME

The Science and Technology Advisory Panel (STAP) was formed by the Director of Central Intelligence in 1976. It serves the DCI as a source of independent advice and expertise on a variety of scientific, technical, and management issues. The membership includes renowned senior scientists, executives, and other leaders from industry, academe, and government.

The STAP meets quarterly in plenary session where, inter alia, formal briefings are presented, reports approved, and direct consultation with the DCI is effected. At other times small working groups or sub-panels are formed to respond to DCI tasking, address specific issues, and provide STAP participation in technical studies or other ongoing projects.

The STAP also responds to requests for assistance from any Deputy Director or senior line manager who believes a STAP member's expertise may contribute to resolving a difficult technical intelligence problem. STAP assistance may be in the form of an informal discussion, a written memorandum, or a formal study or report signed by the Chairman and forwarded to the DCI.

Principal functions of the STAP include:

- To insure the DCI and senior Intelligence Community managers are forewarned of significant advances in state-of-the-art technology and in new applications of existing technology.
- To identify and highlight the implications of current and future S&T developments for intelligence activity.
- To provide linkages and interactions between the intelligence community and the scientific and technical communities in industry, academe, and government, as appropriate.
- To provide a quality control mechanism; an outside source for objective evaluation of current and planned S&T-related intelligence activity.
- To review evidence on existing S&T intelligence "enigmas" and to introduce new thinking and suggest avenues for solving these unknowns.